

Specification Amendments:

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following:

[0043] In one implementation, logical instruments at a high abstraction level allows the application environment to be managed or optimized while still allowing physical components to be provisioned, de-provisioned, or both. Logical instruments can be created, which from a management or optimization standpoint, appear to be static. The logical instruments map down to lower level objects that may interact with software agents on the physical components (“host agents”). Optimization of an application environment can use the logical instruments more effectively because the logical instrument appears to be static to the optimization algorithm. An example of optimization is described in more detail in U.S. Application No.

[__/ __, __,]10/746,806, entitled “Method and System for Optimization of Controls” by Martin et al. filed on [_____]December 24, 2003.